U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management White River Field Office 73544 Hwy 64 Meeker, CO 81641

# ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**NUMBER**: CO-110-2003-019-EA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional): COC-64834

**PROJECT NAME**: Connector Road and adjacent buried pipeline

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION**: T.4S, R.98W, SE sec. 9 & E/2 sec. 16, 6<sup>th</sup> P.M.

**APPLICANT**: ENCANA OIL & GAS (USA) INC.

### **DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:**

**Proposed Action**: The applicant proposes to construct approximately 4600' x 30' ROW (3200' on BLM) of a new gated access road from an existing county road (RBC #69) on top of the ridge to an existing road in the bottom of the drainage (West Hunter Creek) to shorten the total distance required to service proposed wells on the ridge and in the bottom. Applicant proposes to install 5700' x 30' ROW of buried steel pipeline (4200' on BLM) from well #8010 along existing two tracks to RBC #69, thence along RBC #69 to intersection of connector road, thence along proposed connector road to well #8009. Total surface disturbance on BLM would be approximately 5.1 acres. After the pipeline is installed, the disturbed area will be seeded.

No Action Alternative: Deny the proposal and no resource damage would occur.

#### **NEED FOR THE ACTION:**

To respond to a request by applicant to construct a buried pipeline and new access road to access proposed locations on West Hunter Creek from locations off RBC rd. # 69 and shorten the route to service proposed wells in the area.

<u>PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW</u>: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

Name of Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: Page 2-5

<u>Decision Language</u>: "Make federal oil and gas resources available for leasing and development in a manner that provides reasonable protection for other resource values."

# <u>AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES:</u>

STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC LAND HEALTH: In January 1997, Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the Standards for Public Land Health. These standards cover upland soils, riparian systems, plant and animal communities, threatened and endangered species, and water quality. Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of the public lands. Because a standard exists for these five categories, a finding must be made for each of them in an environmental analysis. These findings are located in specific elements listed below:

# **CRITICAL ELEMENTS**

## **AIR QUALITY**

Affected Environment: There are no special designation air sheds or non-attainment areas nearby that would be affected by the proposed action. During periods of low precipitation, air quality in the area of the proposed action is often diminished by dust caused by human disturbance.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would result in short term, local impacts to air quality during and after construction, due to dust being blown into the air. After adequate vegetation is reestablished, blowing dust should return to preconstruction levels.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No increase in dust will occur.

Mitigation: None.

#### **CULTURAL RESOURCES**

Affected Environment: The proposed road route (100' inventory) has been inventoried at the Class III (100% pedestrian) level (Hauck 2003, Compliance Dated 5/28/2003) with no cultural resources identified in the inventory area.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* It appears that there will be no impacts to any known cultural resources from this road route.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* There would be no impacts to cultural resources under the no action alternative.

*Mitigation*: 1. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the identified area can be used for grazing activities again and,
- 2. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

### **INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES**

Affected Environment: The noxious weed leafy spurge (Euphorbia esula) is a major concern in this part of Piceance Basin. At the present time, the applicant has already constructed a location where an established leafy spurge infestation occurs on private land in West Hunter Creek that will be accessed from this road.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Approval of this road will significantly increase (double or more) the chance for leafy spurge to spread from the existing, relatively isolated infestation in the bottom of West Hunter Creek to other areas due to the transport of seed and propagules off site by vehicles and equipment.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There will be no great increase in the potential for leafy spurge to spread to a number of new sites.

*Mitigation*: The applicant will be responsible for controlling/eradicating all noxious weeds which occur in association with this right of way using materials and methods approved by the authorized officer.

#### MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: Non-game populations associated with these ranges are widespread and common throughout sagebrush and mountain shrub habitats in this Resource Area (e.g., green-tailed and spotted towhee, vesper sparrows). There are no specialized or narrowly endemic species known to occupy the project area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Although this action would represent an incremental and longer term reduction in the extent of sagebrush and mountain shrub habitat available for migratory bird breeding functions, implementation of this project would have no measurable influence on the abundance or distribution of breeding migratory birds even at the smallest landscape scale.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* Incremental reductions of mountain shrub habitats would not occur at this time or place.

Mitigation: None.

### WASTES, HAZARDOUS OR SOLID

Affected Environment: There are no known hazardous or other solid wastes on the subject lands. No hazardous materials are known to have been used, stored or disposed of at this site.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: No listed or extremely hazardous materials in excess of threshold quantities are proposed for use in this project. While commercial preparations of fuels and lubricants proposed for use may contain some hazardous constituents, they would be stored, used and transported in a manner consistent with applicable laws, and the generation of hazardous wastes would not be anticipated.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* No hazardous or other solid wastes would be generated under the no-action alternative.

*Mitigation*: The operator shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by this project.

# WATER QUALITY, SURFACE AND GROUND (includes a finding on Standard 5)

Affected Environment: The proposed action is in segment 20, which includes the mainstem of Black Sulphur and Hunter Creeks from their sources to their confluences with Piceance Creek. A review of the Colorado's 1989 Nonpoint Source Assessment Report (plus updates), the 305(b) report, the 303(d) list and the Unified Watershed Assessment was done to see if any water quality concerns have been identified. The State has classified this stream segment as Aquatic Life Cold 1, Recreation 2, and Agriculture. The state has further defined water quality parameters with table values. These standards reflect the ambient water quality and define maximum allowable concentrations for the various water quality parameters. The anti-degradation rule applies to this segment meaning no further water quality degradation is allowable that would interfere with or become harmful to the designated uses. The proposed follows an unnamed tributary of West Hunter Creek. Data is not available for this watershed, but is typical of other ephemeral drainages in the area. Water quality is expected to be of good quality.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The area where the proposed action would be located appears to not be a well defined drainage. The road and temporary

surface pipeline follows this drainage down staying to the west of the drainage on into the bottom. A problem that could arise from the proposed action would be an increase in sediment transport. Annual runoff from any watershed is dynamic and is dependent on some aspects we control, such as the amount of vegetation retained for watershed protection and vegetation density. Depleting the vegetation cover needed to protect watersheds from raindrop impact and runoff could cause short-term erosion problems and increased sedimentation to Hunter Creek and on down to the White River until successful best management practices (BMP) have been implemented and proven to be successful. The magnitude of these impacts would be dependent on the amount of surface disturbance and climatic conditions during the time the soils are exposed to the elements.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Impacts are not anticipated from the no-action alternative.

*Mitigation*: When building the road, implement BMPs to keep the runoff from the road from entering directly into the unnamed tributary.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality: The proposed action will not affect achievement of the land health standard.

### CRITICAL ELEMENTS NOT PRESENT OR NOT AFFECTED:

No flood plains, riparian or wetland systems, prime and unique farmlands, Threatened, Endangered or sensitive plant and animal species, ACECs, Wilderness or Wild and Scenic Rivers exist within the area affected by the proposed action. The Public Land Health Standard for wetland or riparian systems and Threatened, Endangered or sensitive plant and animal species is not applicable to this action, since neither the proposed nor the no-action alternative would have any influence on riparian, populations of, or habitats potentially occupied by, special status plants or animals. There are also no Native American religious or environmental justice concerns associated with the proposed action.

### **NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS**

The following elements **must** be addressed due to the involvement of Standards for Public Land Health:

**SOILS** (includes a finding on Standard 1)

Affected Environment: The soils have been mapped in an order III soil survey by NRCS which is available for review at the field office. Refer to the table below for the type of soils affected by the proposed action.

| Soil<br>Number | Soil Name | Slope | Range site | Salinity | RunOff | Erosion<br>Potential | Bedrock |
|----------------|-----------|-------|------------|----------|--------|----------------------|---------|
|----------------|-----------|-------|------------|----------|--------|----------------------|---------|

| Soil<br>Number | Soil Name                             | Slope  | Range site                   | Salinity | RunOff          | Erosion<br>Potential  | Bedrock |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|--------|------------------------------|----------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------|
| 42             | Irigul channery loam                  | 5-50%  | Loamy Slopes                 | <2       | Medium to rapid | Very high             | 10-20   |
| 82             | Silas loam                            | 0-8%   | Mountain Swale               | <2       | Medium          | Slight to moderate    | >60     |
| 87             | Starman-Vandamore complex             | 5-40%  | Dry Exposure/Dry<br>Exposure | <2       | Medium          | Moderate to very high | 10-20   |
| 91             | Torriorthents-Rock<br>Outcrop complex | 15-90% | Stoney Foothills             |          | Rapid           | Very high             | 10-20   |
| 96             | Veatch channery loam                  | 12-50% | Loamy Slopes                 | <2       | Medium          | Moderate to very high | 20-40   |

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Short-term impacts would be expected from any surface disturbing activity. Impacts from the proposed action would be loss of the protective vegetation cover and possible increase in salt and sedimentation during storm events. These impacts could continue until successful re-vegetation or Best Management Practices (BMPs) has occurred.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* In the no-action alternative, neither the surface disturbance nor the impacts to soils resources would occur.

*Mitigation*: Re-establish vegetation as soon as allowable to control any erosion problems that may occur. Implement BMPs from the White River ROD/RMP to control sediment eroding off of road.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for upland soils: The proposed action will not affect achievement of the Land Health Standard.

### **VEGETATION** (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: Vegetation in the proposed project area is primarily mixed Mountain browse/big sagebrush. The principal ecological site is Loamy slopes. On the ridgeline the range site is Dry exposure.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The project will disturb the existing vegetation structure and composition; however with proper recontouring and revegetation, the site will still met the upland vegetation Standard for the site.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* There will be no change from the present situation.

*Mitigation*: Recontour and revegetate all disturbed areas with native seed mixture #2. Eradicate all noxious and invasive species using materials and methods approved by the authorized officer.

All disturbed areas including borrow areas, cut and fill slopes, and cutouts should be promptly revegetated with Native seed mixture #2.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial): The vegetation on site currently meets the Standard and with applied mitigation will continue to do so in the future.

### **WILDLIFE, AQUATIC** (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: There are no aquatic habitats directly or indirectly involved with this proposal.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: None

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Terrestrial): The proposed action would have no effect on meeting the land health standard.

# **WILDLIFE**, **TERRESTRIAL** (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: This project crosses 4600 feet of mountain shrub and sagebrush communities. The sage is a minor component while serviceberry and some oak dominate the landscape. Big game make extensive summer use of this area.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* Reduction in mountain shrub/sagebrush community.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* No reduction of mountain shrub/sagebrush would occur at this time and place.

*Mitigation*: A locked gate shall be placed at the junction of this road with RBC Rd. 69 to avoid disturbance to big game populations.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic): This project would not jeopardize the viability of any animal population. It would have no significant consequence on terrestrial habitat condition, utility, or function, nor have any discernible affect on animal abundance or distribution at any landscape scale. This public land health standard will thus be met.

**OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS:** For the following elements, only those brought forward for analysis will be addressed further.

| Non-Critical Element      | NA or<br>Not | Applicable or<br>Present, No Impact | Applicable & Present and<br>Brought Forward for |
|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|---|
|                           | Present      |                                     | Analysis  |
| Access and Transportation |              |                                     | X   |
| Cadastral Survey          | X            |                                     |   |
| Fire Management           |              |                                     | X   |
| Forest Management         | X            |                                     |   |
| Geology and Minerals      | X            |                                     |   |
| Hydrology/Water Rights    | X            |                                     |   |
| Law Enforcement           |              | X                                   |   |
| Paleontology              |              |                                     | X   |
| Rangeland Management      |              |                                     | X   |
| Realty Authorizations     | X            |                                     |   |
| Recreation                | X            |                                     |   |
| Socio-Economics           |              | X                                   |   |
| Visual Resources          |              |                                     | X   |
| Wild Horses               | X            |                                     |   |

#### ACCESS AND TRANSPORTATION

Affected Environment: Rio Blanco County Road 69 and a unnamed road on private lands.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: As proposed connector is designed to be a gated convenience route to lessen drive times between lessees' well locations, an increase in traffic will occur on the proposed connector route. The connector road will be gated to prohibit public use of the road. However, recreational traffic during hunting seasons will most likely occur on the road despite the gate.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* No impact.

*Mitigation*: A "Notice to Proceed" for construction of the road and pipeline shall be issued after receiving verification of potential production of well # 8010.

#### **FIRE MANAGEMENT**

Affected Environment: The proposed action falls within the D5 Cathedral/Roan Plateau fire management polygon. This fire management polygon is an area where wildland fire is desired, and there are few constraints for it use. The proposed road traverses through a mix of mountain shrubs, primarily sagebrush, serviceberry, and oak brush.

The National Fire Plan calls for "firefighter and public safety" to be the highest priority for all fire management activities. In the pinion, juniper, and brush types common on the White River Resource Area, roads and other man-made openings are commonly used as fuel breaks or barriers to control the spread of both wildland and prescribed fires. By reducing the activity fuels created from this proposal, future fire management efforts in this area should be safer for those involved and more effective.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Constructing the road will not change the management of fire in the D5 polygon. The proposed action will require the removal of a substantial amount of vegetation (approximately 4.8 tons/acre). If not adequately treated, this vegetation will result in elevated hazardous fuels conditions and remain on-site for many years. These accumulations of dead material are very receptive to fire brands and spotting from wind driven fires and can greatly accelerate the rate of spread of the fire front. The road(s) associated with this project may be used by the general public for a variety of uses, including access for fire wood gathering, hunting and other dispersed recreational activities. Increased public use of an area will nearly always result in an increased potential for man-caused wildland fires. If not treated the slash and woody debris will create an elevated hazardous dead fuel loading which could pose significant control problems in the event of a wildfire.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:

Mitigation: The operator has two options for treatment of slash from this project. A hydro-ax or other mulching type machine could be used to remove the vegetation. The machines are capable of shredding trees up to 12" in diameter and 15' tall as well as mowing brush like a conventional brush beater. It generally leaves small branches and pieces of wood from pencil size up to bowling ball size. The mulch is evenly scattered across the surface and the tires or tracks distribute the weight of the equipment. This would effectively break down the woody fuel and scatter the debris thereby eliminating any hazardous fuel load adjacent to the new road and well pad. The other option would be to windrow the vegetation and then follow up with a chipper to break down and scatter the debris.

#### **PALEONTOLOGY**

Affected Environment: The proposed action is located in an area that is mapped as the Uinta Formation. The Uinta Formation has been classified by the BLM as a Class I fossil bearing meaning that it is known to produce significant vertebrate fossils and, occasionally scientifically significant plant fossils.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action will involve excavation into the bedrock formation resulting in the potential to impact significant vertebrate fossil resources.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* There would be no impacts to fossil resources under the no action alternative.

*Mitigation*: 1. There shall be an inventory for fossil resources, by an approved paleontologist, with a report detailing all findings and mitigation recommendation in case fossils are located, submitted to the BLM before construction is allowed to proceed.

2. A monitor shall be present, unless the consulting paleontologist recommends against it, at all times while construction involves excavation into the underlying bedrock to establish the road bed

#### RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

Affected Environment: The proposed access road bisects the allotment boundary fence between the Fawn Creek and Piceance Mountain allotments in the SESE Sec 9, 4S R98W.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: As discussed in the 2003 field meeting with Keith Whitaker, the grazing permittees would like to eliminate non oil and gas production vehicular traffic down into the bottom of West Hunter Creek because this proposed access traverses private land and they believe that without this control, there will be a marked increase in trespass over the current situation. With proper adherence to reclamation and noxious weed control mitigation, upland vegetation in the project area will continue to meet Standard 3.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* There will no change from the present situation.

*Mitigation*: Install a minimum 16 ft cattleguard with a lockable heavy pipe gate across the cattleguard.

#### VISUAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The proposed action is located within a VRM class III area. The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would require the construction of the proposed road by clearing brush species and creating a lateral line that would follow the form of the natural sloping landscape, but create contrast between bare soil and native vegetation. Color would be a contrast since the soils are light colored and the brush is darker year round. The casual observer would not be able to view the proposed action since the new road would be located on one side of a narrow drainage with no view from other established routes. The characteristics of the VRM class III objectives would be retained.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* There would not be any additional environmental impacts from the no action alternative.

Mitigation: None.

**CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY:** Cumulative impacts from oil and gas development were analyzed in the White River Resource Area Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS) completed in June 1996. Current development, including the proposed action, has not exceeded the cumulative impacts from the foreseeable development analyzed in the PRMP/FEIS.

# PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED: INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

| Name  | Title                              | Area of Responsibility  |  |  |
|---|------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Caroline Hollowed                             | Hydrologist                        | Air Quality   |  |  |
| Rusty Roberts Rangeland Management Specialist |                                    | Areas of Critical Environmental Concern                         |  |  |
| Rusty Roberts                                 | Rangeland Management<br>Specialist | Threatened and Endangered Plant Species                         |  |  |
| Michael Selle                                 | Archaeologist                      | Cultural Resources Paleontological Resources                    |  |  |
| Mark Hafkenschiel                             | Rangeland Management<br>Specialist | Invasive, Non-Native Species                                    |  |  |
| Glenn Klingler                                | Wildlife Biologist                 | Migratory Birds   |  |  |
| Glenn Klingler                                | Wildlife Biologist                 | Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Animal Species, Wildlife   |  |  |
| Marty O'Mara                                  | Hazmat Collateral                  | Wastes, Hazardous or Solid                                      |  |  |
| Caroline Hollowed                             | Hydrologist                        | Water Quality, Surface and Ground<br>Hydrology and Water Rights |  |  |
| Glenn Klingler                                | Wildlife Biologist                 | Wetlands and Riparian Zones                                     |  |  |
| Chris Ham                                     | Outdoor Recreation Planner         | Wilderness  |  |  |
| Caroline Hollowed                             | Hydrologist                        | Soils   |  |  |
| Mark Hafkenschiel                             | Rangeland Management<br>Specialist | Vegetation  |  |  |
| Ken Holsinger                                 | NRS                                | Fire Management   |  |  |
| Chris Ham                                     | Outdoor Recreation Planner         | Access and Transportation                                       |  |  |
| Robert Fowler                                 | Forester                           | Forest Management   |  |  |
| Paul Daggett                                  | Mining Engineer                    | Geology and Minerals  |  |  |
| Mark Hafkenschiel                             | Rangeland Management<br>Specialist | Rangeland Management  |  |  |
| Penny Brown                                   | Realty Specialist                  | Realty Authorizations   |  |  |
| Chris Ham                                     | Outdoor Recreation Planner         | Recreation  |  |  |
| Keith Whitaker                                | NRS                                | Visual Resources  |  |  |
| Valerie Dobrich                               | NRS                                | Wild Horses   |  |  |

# Finding of No Significant Impact/Decision Record (FONSI/DR)

# CO-110-2003-019-EA

<u>FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)/RATIONALE</u>: The environmental assessment and analyzing the environmental effects of the proposed action have been reviewed. The approved mitigation measures (listed below) result in a <u>Finding of No Significant Impact</u> on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary to further analyze the environmental effects of the proposed action.

**<u>DECISION/RATIONALE</u>**: It is my decision to approve the proposed action with the mitigation measures listed below.

MITIGATION MEASURES: 1. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the identified area can be used for grazing activities again and,
- 2. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.
- 3. The applicant will be responsible for controlling/eradicating all noxious weeds which occur in association with this right of way using materials and methods approved by the authorized officer.
- 4. The operator shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by this project.
- 5. When building the road, implement BMPs to keep the runoff from the road from entering directly into the unnamed tributary.
- 6. Re-establish vegetation as soon as allowable to control any erosion problems that may occur. Implement BMPs from the White River ROD/RMP to control sediment eroding off of road.

- 7. Recontour and revegetate all disturbed areas with native seed mixture #2. Eradicate all noxious and invasive species using materials and methods approved by the authorized officer.
- 8. A locked gate shall be placed at the junction of this road with RBC Rd. 69 (T.4S, R.98W, SE sec. 9) to avoid disturbance to big game populations.
- 9. A "Notice to Proceed" for construction of the road and pipeline shall be issued after receiving verification of potential production of well # 8010.
- 10. The operator has two options for treatment of slash from this project. A hydro-ax or other mulching type machine could be used to remove the vegetation. The machines are capable of shredding trees up to 12" in diameter and 15' tall as well as mowing brush like a conventional brush beater. It generally leaves small branches and pieces of wood from pencil size up to bowling ball size. The mulch is evenly scattered across the surface and the tires or tracks distribute the weight of the equipment. This would effectively break down the woody fuel and scatter the debris thereby eliminating any hazardous fuel load adjacent to the new road and well pad. The other option would be to windrow the vegetation and then follow up with a chipper to break down and scatter the debris.
- 11. There shall be an inventory for fossil resources, by an approved paleontologist, with a report detailing all findings and mitigation recommendation in case fossils are located, submitted to the BLM before construction is allowed to proceed.
- 12. A monitor shall be present, unless the consulting paleontologist recommends against it, at all times while construction involves excavation into the underlying bedrock to establish the road bed.
- 13. Install a minimum 16 ft cattleguard (T.4S, R.98W, SE sec. 9) with a lockable heavy pipe gate across the cattleguard.
- 14. All disturbed areas including borrow areas, cut and fill slopes, and cutouts should be promptly revegetated with Native seed mixture #2 listed below.

| Seed  | Species (Variety)               | Lbs. PLS | Range Sites           |
|-------|---------------------------------|----------|-----------------------|
| Mix # |                                 | per Acre |                       |
| 2     | Western wheatgrass (Rosanna)    | 2        | Deep Loam, Loamy      |
|       | Indian ricegrass (Nezpar)       | 1        | 10"-14", Loamy        |
|       | Bluebunch wheatgrass (Whitmar)  | 2        | Breaks, Loamy Slopes, |
|       | Thickspike wheatgrass (Critana) | 2        | Rolling Loam, Valley  |
|       | Green needlegrass (Lodorm)      | 1        | Bench                 |
|       | Globemallow                     | 0.5      |                       |

# **COMPLIANCE/MONITORING:**

NAME OF PREPARER: Kith Whitaber 8/23/04

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Cauline P. Hollowed 8/23/04

DATE SIGNED:

8/23/04

ATTACHMENTS: Map of proposed location.

